

**Contacting Emperor Maldives in resort:** Country Code is 00960 + local number dropping the 1<sup>st</sup> 0.

Emperor Fleet Airport Representative: 00960 768 0888

Emperor Fleet General Manager: 00960 799 6657

In the event of an emergency, family and friends can contact our staff can be contacted on any of the numbers above.

**Passports & Visas:** All guests must have a passport valid for at least six more months after arrival. 30 day tourist visas are issued on arrival at the immigration desk at Maldives International airport for all nationalities and are free of charge. All visitors must be in possession of a return/onward flight ticket.

**Insurance:** We do require all divers to have valid insurance from a reputable company that covers diving accidents. You will need to bring proof of this with you to show the guides when you check in. Emperor Maldives use INDEPTH'S Insurance which is available to purchase onboard. As a temporary member, you will be able to gain insured member benefits. Prices can be found here: [Onboard Price List](#)

**On arrival:** Guests arriving at Male Airport on the check-in day (usually Saturday) will be met by a representative, wearing an Emperor Maldives T-shirt and holding an Emperor Maldives sign. The meeting point is beside the Help Desk.

**Transfers to and from the liveaboard:** Transfers from the airport to the boat run at 11:00, 16:00 and 22.30 and are free of charge. Guests who use the 11:00 transfer have to accept that the boat will not be fully cleaned or ready. A light sandwich style snack will be provided for lunch. Please contact us to discuss options if your flight is either very early or later than the transfer times shown as we may be able to arrange an extra transfer for €5 EUR per person paid locally. If you are already in the Maldives, you should make your way to the airport for the 16:00 transfer. The boat moors in port on arrival day and overnight, departing early on the morning following the check-in day. If your route does not start in Male and requires a domestic flight on arrival then you will be met by an Emperor Representative where possible, and assisted with the check-in formalities for your flight. Full details will be provided at the time of booking. The boat moors in port mid-afternoon the day before departure and remains in port overnight until check-out from the boat.

Check out is at 07:00 and guests will be in the airport by 07:30. For guests continuing their holiday in the Maldives at a resort, hotel or another liveaboard, your on-going transfers need to be arranged by you from the airport. We will not be able to arrange direct transfers from the liveaboard to resorts. Day use rooms are available with hotel/guest houses on Hulhumale, the boat manager can help you arrange this on request. Payment is made locally.

**Information about Male Airport:** If you do have to wait for one of the transfers on arrival then the airport is reasonably comfortable and has a shop for local SIM cards, a post office, money changer, and a few decent coffee shops / restaurants Inc. Thai Express, Burger King and a New Noodle.

**Diving:** The maximum depth for diving in the Maldives is 30 metres with an equally qualified buddy. On some dives the recommended depth is below 18m therefore advanced or Deep Diver training is advised. Your maximum diving depth will be dependent on your level of training and experience. It is your responsibility to check what depths your insurance policy covers you for before your arrival. Divers are required to have a minimum of 30 logged dives to join a Sharktastic itinerary and 100 logged dives for South Central and Deep South itineraries. Sharktastic, South Central and Deep South itineraries are not suitable for beginners and recommend Deep Diver/Advanced Open Water certification or equivalent. Unpredictable and strong currents are to be expected anytime, but especially in periods of new and full moons. All divers are required to dive in a buddy team and be able to complete each dive with your buddy or following your guide. If you are an Open Water Diver when joining, we recommend having advanced experience or taking your PADI Advanced Open Water course on board to maximise your enjoyment from the trip. Inexperienced and beginner divers may find some dives challenging and may be asked by the Cruise Director to skip dives that are not suitable for their diving experience. Experienced divers can dive in a buddy pair unguided. There will be no diving on arrival and departure day and 17/18 dives offered per week (2-3 dives per day). Divers must ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their last dive and their flight departure (or going to altitude). All divers are required to dive in a buddy team; should you be a single diver a buddy will be allocated onboard.

**Guides:** For all diving sites visited en route our dive guides will give you a detailed and comprehensive dive briefing before you enter the water. All Emperor Maldives' dhonis have a minimum of two guides on board. When the guide is in the water they will remain with the group to navigate the site and to look out for any interesting marine life to show you. The dive guide will not provide any dive training during the dive and you and buddy dive together at your own risk. As qualified divers, you are responsible for your own and your buddy's safety during the dive and to 'plan your dive, dive your plan' using a personal dive computer. You must begin, execute and end the dive with your dive buddy. You are expected to be able to dive to a standard as per the certification and experience requirements outlined. The guides may decide upon seeing each diver's ability not to enter the water for every dive and will remain onboard providing surface support only. Decompression diving, solo diving and technical diving is strictly prohibited.

**Skills Review & Check Dive:** Many agencies recommend a Skills Review if it has been longer than six months since your last dive. Emperor Maldives advises divers to follow the agency recommendation for safety reasons. The Skills Review should be completed prior to your arrival in resort and signed by an instructor in your diving logbook. Evidence of the date of your last dive should be shown in your log book to avoid problems on check-in. Every diver, regardless of their qualification or experience will be required to participate in a check-dive, normally the first dive and prior to commencing normal diving activities. This dive allows you to orientate yourself in your diving environment and acquaint yourself with your equipment. In the interests of safety, Emperor Maldives reserves the right to restrict diving activities if the instructor has any concerns regarding diver safety.

**Courses:** We offer a range of courses on-board, from beginner to a wide range of speciality and advanced training courses. Courses are subject to availability and itinerary and include course materials (where required) and certification fee. If arranged on-board a 12% sales tax will be added. Prices can be found here: [Onboard Price List](#). For the Open Water Referral Course, you will need to bring with you your referral form (signed and completed by your instructor dated within 12 months) as evidence that you have completed the theory and confined dives. Course paperwork needs to be signed by a parent or guardian for students under the age of 18.

**Medicals:** All diving guests joining a Liveaboard are required to sign a [self-declaration medical](#). If you are taking part in a [PADI](#) course on-board, you are required to sign a medical form prior to starting the course. In both cases, if you have, or think you have, any of the medical conditions listed you will need signed clearance from a doctor valid within 12 months of your planned liveaboard. Where doctor's clearance is needed, we ask you to arrange this before arrival where possible and to bring it with you to avoid any delays, additional costs or even missing the trip.

**Liability Release:** When checking in on-board all divers are required to produce a valid certification/qualification and sign a completed registration form/waiver prior to the commencing diving activities. A sample can be found at the end of this document. US and Canadian divers must sign a North American Waiver which can be sent on request.

**Dive equipment:** The dhoni has ample storage space for your equipment and there is a spares box onboard. We suggest that you bring the following:

- Mask, snorkel, fins, boots, wetsuit, regulator, BCD, SMB (with a minimum of 5 metres of line to deploy during the safety stop) and a dive computer with spare batteries and a torch for any night dives.
- The average water temperature is 29°C and we recommend a 3mm shortie or wetsuit.

Equipment is available for rent from Emperor Maldives and we ask that you pre-book your equipment before you arrive in resort. We need to know normal sizes, height, weight and shoe sizes to prepare the correctly sized equipment for you.

All divers are required to use a dive computer and SMB and carry Reef Hooks for every dive and a torch each for night dives throughout their safari experience for safety reasons. Please bring your own or ask us what is available on-board.

**Nitrox:** Emperor Maldives' vessels are equipped to offer Nitrox facilities and Nitrox fills (normally 32%) are offered free of charge, subject to demand and availability. Please inform the dive guide in plenty of time to ensure that your tank is ready for your diving.

**Tanks & Adapters:** We have DIN tanks and INT adapters available on-board. We strongly advise divers with M26 regulators and have adapters to fit to DIN tanks to please remember to bring your own adapter with you.

**Photo & Video equipment:** Recharging facilities and rinse tanks are available onboard. You are asked not to charge items in your cabin left unattended or while you sleep for safety reasons.

**Snorkelling/Non-divers:** Both snorkelers and non-divers will be required to complete a liability form at the time of check in. Snorkelling can be taken from the dhoni when an Instructor/Guide is onboard to observe or unless the snorkeler is accompanied in the water by a certified diver. We ask all snorkelers to wear a floatation aid at all times. Whilst every effort will be made for non-diving guests wishing to snorkel or guests wanting to try scuba diving, some itineraries or dive locations may not be permitted for safety reasons.

**The Captain:** An important man! He will decide, along with the dive guides, where you go and when. Often dive sites can look like a millpond on the surface and to the uninitiated seems perfectly acceptable to dive. However, if the captain and guides say no, please accept their decision. Safety is the foremost concern of our knowledgeable captain and dive guides. The sea is a dangerous place when not respected, so please accept the alternative plan as best you can.

**Cabins:** All the cabins accommodate two guests either in a double-bedded cabin or twin berth cabin. Cabins are pre-sold and allocated prior to arrival.

**Bathrooms:** All bathrooms are equipped with a shower, sink and toilet. Please take extra care in the bathrooms not to slip and always use the shower curtain/door. Placing toilet paper down any toilet on-board is not acceptable. This not only risks blocking the system but it also finds its way in to the delicate reef systems causing irreparable damage. Waste paper bins are provided in all bathrooms and are emptied regularly.

**Hot water:** Short showers are the order of the day on liveboards as hot water is in short supply. We ask guests to shower at different times to ensure everyone enjoys a hot shower.

**Air-conditioning:** All Emperor Maldives liveboards have air-conditioning cabins with a fan. Air-conditioning uses a lot of power and energy so we ask you to please be kind to the environment and don't leave the air conditioning on in your cabin when you are elsewhere on-board.

**House-keeping:** You will be provided with a bath and hand towel, plus an additional towel for use on the sun deck. Dive towels are available on the diving dhoni and are changed every day. The housekeeping crew will clean your cabin daily, generally after your first or second dive of the day. Towels and bed linen are changed once a week. For any additional cleaning required or change of towels please speak to the guides who will be able to assist you.

**Food & Drink:** The meals on-board are usually buffet style with a variety of local and International dishes to suit everyone. Local food is traditionally a bit spicy, fish is available on-board, mostly frozen with a few fresh catches along the way. Water, tea and coffee are complimentary. Soft drinks, fresh juices and alcohol (cocktails, liquors, wine and beer) are chargeable. **For any special dietary requests, such as vegetarian or any allergies, please inform us prior to arrival.** We source items locally, therefore items such as, but not limited to; wholemeal pastas or flour, gluten free products or soya substitutes are not typically available.

**Alcohol:** Importing of alcoholic beverages is prohibited by law. Bottles containing alcoholic beverages will be confiscated at Customs upon arrival and returned to you at departure. Alcohol is available to purchase on board. Guests will not be permitted to dive after consuming alcohol or under the influence of a hangover as this seriously impairs your judgment and increases your risk of decompression sickness. If the guides deem that you are unfit to dive you will be asked to sit out the dive. Your safety and well-being are paramount so this request by the dive guides will only be made to avoid accidents.

**Behaviour:** Anti-social or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and individuals who cause a disturbance to other guests may be removed from the liveboard.

**Entertainment:** There is a variety of nightly entertainment ranging from night dives, a BBQ on a local island (subject to weather conditions and the route), watching films or simply relaxing on the sundeck comparing fish stories. A Male city tour is also included with a local guide upon request.

**Shopping:** There is a selection of T-shirts, merchandise and diving accessories available to purchase onboard.

**Luggage:** Whilst you may be advised where to store your luggage, you leave your belongings there at your own risk.

**Health:** Check with your local doctor for recommended vaccinations. And remember to bring any prescribed medicines.

**Time:** 5 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight savings time is not observed in the Maldives.

**Electricity:** 3 pin UK electrical sockets using 220 volts AC 50Hz.

**Communications:** VHF & CB radios, satellite telephone and personal mobiles.

**Internet:** All our liveboards are equipped with Wi-Fi and internet is available when a mobile signal is present normally only nearby or in port. This service is for limited internet browsing and to connect with communication applications. Upload/download is very limited; therefore, we ask guests to refrain from transferring large files. Signal strength can vary which may result in intermittent and/or slow connections. This service is dependent on the local mobile provider.

**Language:** The national language is Dhivehi. English and other languages are widely spoken within tourist areas.

**Taxes:** All environmental and bed taxes and port fees are included in the price of your safari package. Any equipment rental, special tank requests and onboard purchases paid locally will be subject to 12% sales tax.

**Tips on board:** Emperor Maldives believe that tips should be on a voluntary basis depending on the quality of your service from the guides and the crew. You will find an envelope in your cabin and the general recommendation is \$150 per person. Please feel free to leave what you think is acceptable and it will be equally shared between the guides and crew.

**Currency accepted onboard:** All prices are in US dollars when onboard but we accept in cash Euros, Sterling and US dollars. Visa and Mastercard are also accepted onboard, charged in USD and a 4% surcharge will be added. Please check with your bank any international charges and exchange rates.

**Packing; remember to bring:**

- Personal clothing & toiletries
- Small medical first aid box & prescription medicines
- Ear plugs are recommended if you are a light sleeper
- Water-proof bags to store electronic items (land camera, passports) in case of water damage whilst on board
- Note: Hard suitcases are hard to store onboard so please use roll up/collapsible style bags where possible

**Essential paperwork; remember to bring:**

- Logbook with your most recent dives in
- Valid diving association certification proof
- Valid travel insurance

- A copy of valid diving insurance details per person (translated in English by your insurance company if not already) stating the start and ending date of the diving cover with the exact diving insurance covered by the policy. Without this document, you will be required to purchase diving insurance locally before you may begin diving.
- Booking voucher and holiday details (from your travel agency if not booked direct with Emperor Maldives).

**Nice to bring but not essential:** CDs, DVDs, books, laptop, mobile phone, video and photo camera, binoculars and chargers.

**And finally:** If you have never been on a liveaboard before, then expect a few adjustments from normal life to enjoy your week. If you experience any problems during the week, please ensure that these are raised with the dive guides as soon as is practically possible. The guides and Boat Manager can remedy the problem on-board majority of the time. However, if something remains unresolved make sure you raise it with the Boat Manager at the end of your week. With all the will in the world, problems cannot be resolved unless you highlight them. If you have any concerns, please raise them. For more details on Emperor Maldives' liveaboards, please email [info.safaris@emperordivers.com](mailto:info.safaris@emperordivers.com) or via our website <http://maldives.emperordivers.com/>

**Liability Release:** All divers are required to produce a valid certification/qualification and sign a completed registration form/waiver (as below) prior to the commencing diving activities.

US and Canadian divers must sign a North American Waiver which will be sent separately.

**Diving Issues you should be aware of when diving in the Maldives. Your booking conditions with Emperor Maldives hereafter called "Emperor".**

In signing this form I acknowledge that I have read and agree to its contents and understand the implications and risks involved.

I agree to follow the safe diving practices of my training organization(s).

The Maldivian Authorities state a maximum diving depth of 30 meters. I agree that it is my responsibility to check my insurance cover.

**DIVING:** I agree not to exceed the maximum limit under any circumstances barring a life threatening emergency. I also understand that it is my responsibility to check to what depths my insurance provides cover. I understand that should I break this rule Emperor reserves the right to stop me diving with no refund for diving packages.

Emperor Divers' dive guides will provide a detailed and comprehensive dive briefing before I enter the water with my buddy, when the guide is in the water they will remain with the group to navigate the site and to look out for any interesting marine life to show me. I am aware that the guide will not provide any training during the dive and I, and my buddy pair, dive at our own risk. As a qualified diver I am responsible for my own and my buddy's safety during the dive and to plan my dive and dive my plan by using either dive tables or a personal dive computer. I must begin, execute and end the dive with my dive buddy.

I confirm that I have been advised and informed of the inherent hazards of skin and scuba diving. I understand that skin and scuba diving can cause physical strain or exertion, not normally experienced in non-diving situations.

I assume all risks connected with scuba diving and will not hold Emperor responsible for any injuries including but not limited to, those resulting from heart attack, physical / mental strain or exertion, or barotrauma, including decompression sickness or arterial gas embolism.

**ENRICHED AIR NITROX:** I agree to abide by the maximum operating depth limits applicable to my level of training and the gas mix used. I agree to personally analyze cylinders for my use and complete the fill station log.

**MEDICAL:** I confirm that I have no current or historic illness, disease or medical condition, which could lead to the injury of myself, any other diver or employee of Emperor, whilst skin or scuba diving. If I am in doubt as to my health, past or present and the effect this may have on dive safety, I agree to be independently examined prior to diving.

I agree not to drink any alcoholic beverages before I dive. I give Emperor my permission to stop me from diving should I drink any alcoholic beverages before diving or if I am still under the influence of alcohol before diving. I agree not to dive after use of medication or when feeling unwell.

**EMERGENCY:** I agree to bear all the costs of medical treatment, chamber costs, recovery and transport charges in the event of an accident. Should the case arise that I am unable to decide for myself I authorize Emperor and their agents to arrange medical treatment on my behalf. I will provide Emperor with details of my insurance company, policy number and Medical Emergency Telephone number. I do understand that if any accident happens, it might take some time to reach a medical centre, so I will abide to safety standards and listen carefully to the instructions of Emperor employees.

**BOAT SAFETY:** Extra due care and attention is required when diving, operating and living on boats due to the increased hazard of, but not restricted to, movement in rough seas, wet decks and equipment movement. I undertake to take extra care whilst on board a boat and will not hold Emperor responsible for any damages incurred that can be attributed to normal boating hazards. I accept the increased risk of diving near to and from boats and dhoni's and accept that extra care and vigilance is required on my behalf.

**NATURE:** I understand that there is marine life that may cause bodily injury if touched or harassed and therefore I agree not to feed, touch or harass the marine life. I will not wear gloves.

**EQUIPMENT:** Emperor maintains scuba equipment for service on a rental basis. This equipment is not in any way guaranteed either as to correct construction or safe use. Parties renting and using this equipment will do so entirely upon their own judgment and at their own risk. I have inspected the equipment and find that is in good working order and free from defects. I agree to return the equipment at the end of the rental period in the same condition, fair wear and tear expected, and will be responsible for the loss or damage to the said equipment including freight charges and import duty. Equipment returned late is subject to a late charge. No refunds will be paid due to non-use of equipment. Rentals are per 24-hour or part period. A security deposit is required on all rentals. Emperor is not responsible for any damages or losses of any equipment whether the property of the client or Emperor.

I agree that Emperor will not be held liable or responsible for an injury I sustain as a result of not adhering to the above items.

**INSURANCE:** Emperor Maldives has "Dive-Master" liability cover for diving activities. There is no third-party liability insurance of European standards available in Maldives and hence Emperor insist that guests have adequate personal diving and non-diving insurance to cover all diving and non-diving risks involved in the service provided by Emperor. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY to check that my insurance provides adequate cover and that I dive within the limits of the cover provided. Chamber costs are high in the Maldives. We also advise that it is important to have good travel insurance to cover accidents of a general nature.

**JURISDICTION:** The terms of these booking conditions are governed by Maldivian Law and clients shall be subject to the sole jurisdiction of the Maldivian courts.